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Congress Urged to Watch CIA, Others

Rep. Jeffery Cohelan, D-Berkeley, today called for a congressional investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency and other government bodies concerned with foreign information.

"If war is too important to be left to the generals, then cold war intelligence operations are too important to be left to specialists who are not accountable to Congress," Cohelan declared in a statement issued in Washington.

He introduced a bill calling for a 14-member joint House and Senate Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence.

Cohelan said a few members of the Armed Services and Appropriations committees are briefed once or twice a year by the CIA and related agencies,

"but this is clearly a poor substitute for the continuing surveillance of activities which have grown in size and significance over the years."

The committee should not concern itself with the day-to-day operations of intelligence agencies, "but it is essential that the elected representatives of the people be in a position to effectively monitor these activities and to recommend appropriate changes," Cohelan said.

A principal responsibility of the committee would be to insure that intelligence agencies do not exceed their legitimate functions and become unauthorized policy makers, he said.

In addition to the CIA, the Cohelan bill would cover the Defense Intelligence Agency, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the National Security Agency.